

FLINT JOURNAL (MICH.)
23 September 1978

Ex-CIA chief plumps here for Sen. Griffin

By MICHAEL J. RIHA
Journal Political Writer

Former CIA Director George Bush was in Flint Friday to campaign for U.S. Sen. Robert P. Griffin and to win points with Republicans he will need if he decides to announce for the presidency in 1980.

Bush's trip to Michigan on behalf of Griffin follows one by Henry A. Kissinger, former secretary of state, and precedes one by former President Gerald R. Ford.

Republicans, it seems, are trotting out their big guns on behalf of Griffin, who is in a tough fight to win his third full term in the Senate.

However, Bush sidestepped a question of whether this means that Republicans consider Griffin in trouble politically.

Bush said he has been told that Griffin is leading his Democratic opponent, Carl M. Levin, in the polls, although the most recent one published by a Detroit newspaper had Levin with a slight lead.

Calling Griffin "an old friend and former colleague," Bush predicted he will win re-election because he is right on the issues.

Griffin is calling for tax cuts and reductions in government spending as

necessary steps to control inflation. He calls the problem "taxflation."

"The issues that determine election in an off year are pocketbook issues. I don't believe that foreign policy will have an effect," Bush said.

Dissatisfaction with President Carter, despite his apparent successes at the Camp David summit on the Middle East problem, will help the GOP this year, said Bush, who is a former ambassador to the United Nations and former national Republican Party chairman.

In the past six months, Bush said, he has visited 32 states on behalf of Republican candidates.

He spoke at a \$75-a-person fundraiser at the Flint Golf Club.

Bush said that he is "giving serious consideration" to running for president, but avoided answering whether he considers himself a moderate alternative to conservative Ronald Reagan, who is on everyone's list as a GOP presidential possibility in 1980.

Bush said that he wanted to avoid philosophical labels, but added: "I want to see more people be Republicans. You don't win elections otherwise."

That kind of statement is usually made by moderate Republicans, who want to broaden the party's base. Con-

servatives tend to put ideology above practical politics.

Bush's comments here included:

— Carter should be given "enormous credit" for his efforts at Camp David to get Egyptian President Anwar Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin to agree on a framework for peace.

Bush called it an "agreement to agree," and stressed that there are still several roadblocks to peace. He said he is worried about radical Arab factions and the Soviet Union, who could scuttle the peace plans.

— The CIA is the best foreign-intelligence-gathering agency in the world, but it could be better. He said the oversight of the agency intended to prevent abuses of its authority too fragmented with both Congressional and executive watchdogs. This could lead to intelligence leaks, he said.

— Americans should appreciate the need for good foreign intelligence to prevent "international terrorism" such as that being experienced in Italy from coming to the United States.

— The work of the House Assassinations Committee is "a charade," and the committee has produced no results.